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Answered— or Unanswered

By

Miss Louisa Vaughan



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Chinese Experiences *of*

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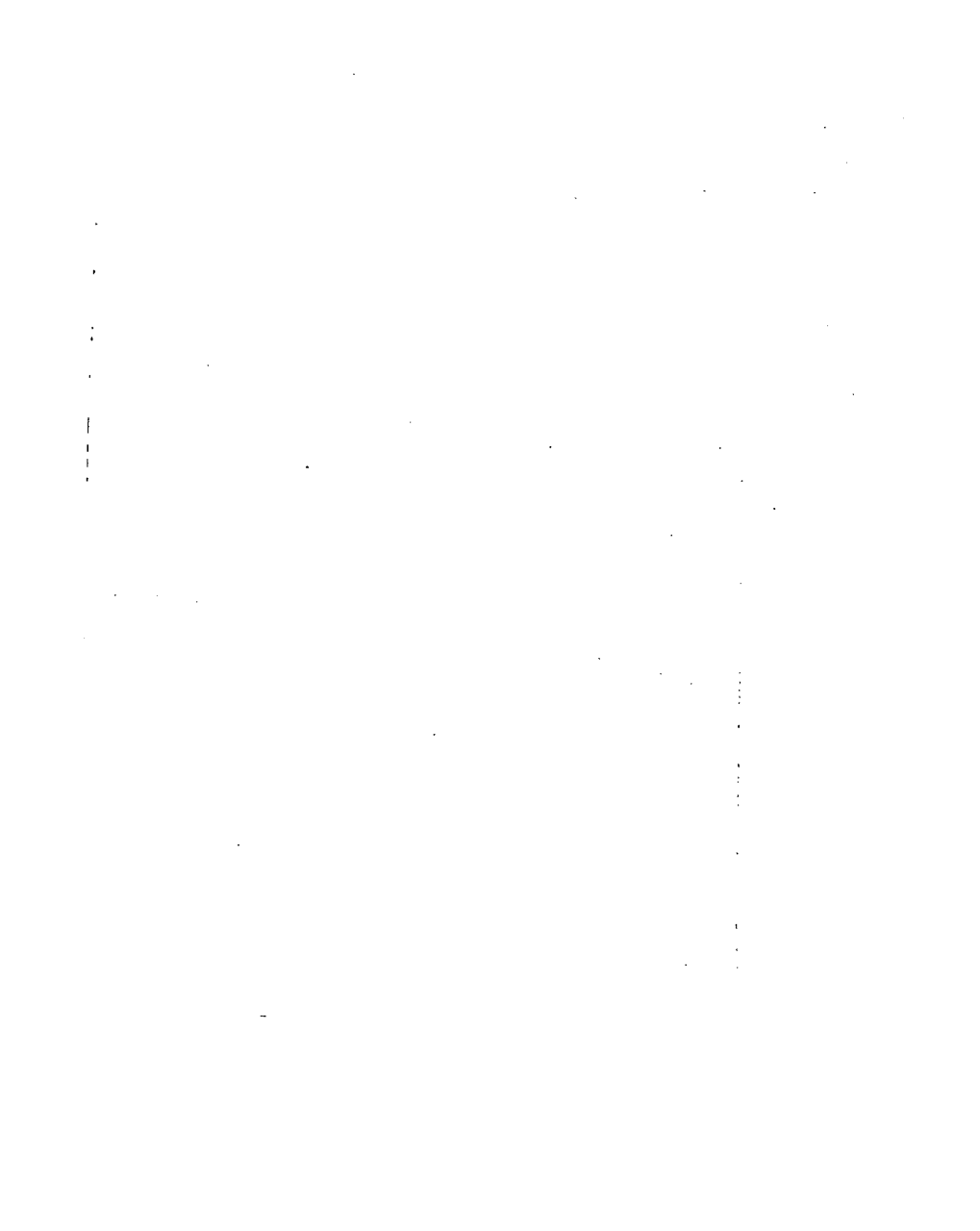
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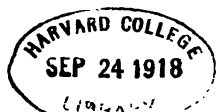
Han Ku Niang (Miss Louisa Vaughan)

ANSWERED
OR
UNANSWERED
By
MISS LOUISA VAUGHAN



PUBLISHED BY
THE MISSIONARY PRESS CO.
1145 N. Topeka Ave.,
WICHITA, KANSAS, U. S. A.

Ch 75.118



*Gift of
Harold J. Coolidge*

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The Missionary Press Company

This Book is gratefully and lovingly
DEDICATED
To Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Bradt and the friends in
The First Presbyterian Church
of Wichita, Kansas, U. S. A.,
Who so loyally supported the writer with both
their prayers and their gifts,
Thus enabling her to serve God by her faith and
testimony in China.

PREFACE

The aim of this little volume is to set forth as simply, and as concisely as possible, the incidents connected with my life and service for the Lord Jesus during my residence in China from October, 1896, to January, 1912. These stories as written were the result of the vision which the Lord Himself gave me concerning my witness-bearing amongst the Chinese people. And this testimony was to be one of Faith, based on His own promises in John 14:1, 13, 14. During this period of doubt and unbelief in the minds of many of the Lord's children I trust the stories may be a word of help and encouragement in season.

Some of the persons mentioned in the stories have already gone to be with their Master in Heaven; many

still remain alive in their various churches in Shan Tung Province, North China. They can corroborate, word for word, the incidents as written in the accompanying volume.

Pastor Ding is called the Moody of China today. Rev. Swen is pastor over a large independent church in the city of Nanking. Many other workers and pastors are in other places giving their own testimony to God's grace, love and power through simple faith in His Word.

LOUISA VAUGHAN.

St. Louis, Missouri.

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INTRODUCTION

By Charles Edwin Bradt

Some people tell us that the day of miracles is past. Where are such people looking, that they cannot see miracles on every hand? Miracles? Yes, miracles!—the same in kind and cause as we read of in the Bible. Save the one greatest miracle of all the ages,—Jesus Christ, whose name is Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace, there are no Bible miracles more wonderful than those of contemporary times. What is a miracle? Prof. A. G. Hogg writes in an unusually up-to-date and scientifically scriptural manner when he says:

“Miracle and Supernatural are unsatisfactory expressions. Etymologic-

ally they express only wonder and baffled understanding. But their acquired christian meaning is positive. They are occurrences of which the human condition is not the self-competent manipulation of ascertained means, but is a definite exertion of our trust in the Father. To base our belief in Christianity on miracle and on the supernatural in this sense of the terms need not be to base it on external evidence; on the contrary it is to found it on what we may test in our own experience. To work miracles and make confident drafts upon the supernatural is our Christian duty and privilege. Yet miracle-working is no easy activity. It is controlled by stringent conditions. It is a grace which we earn with our whole soul's tasking."

The writer of these chapters, is working on the lines of faith and prayer which lead straight to the goal of the wonderful, the operating base of every obedient Christian. Why should it be thought a thing incredible

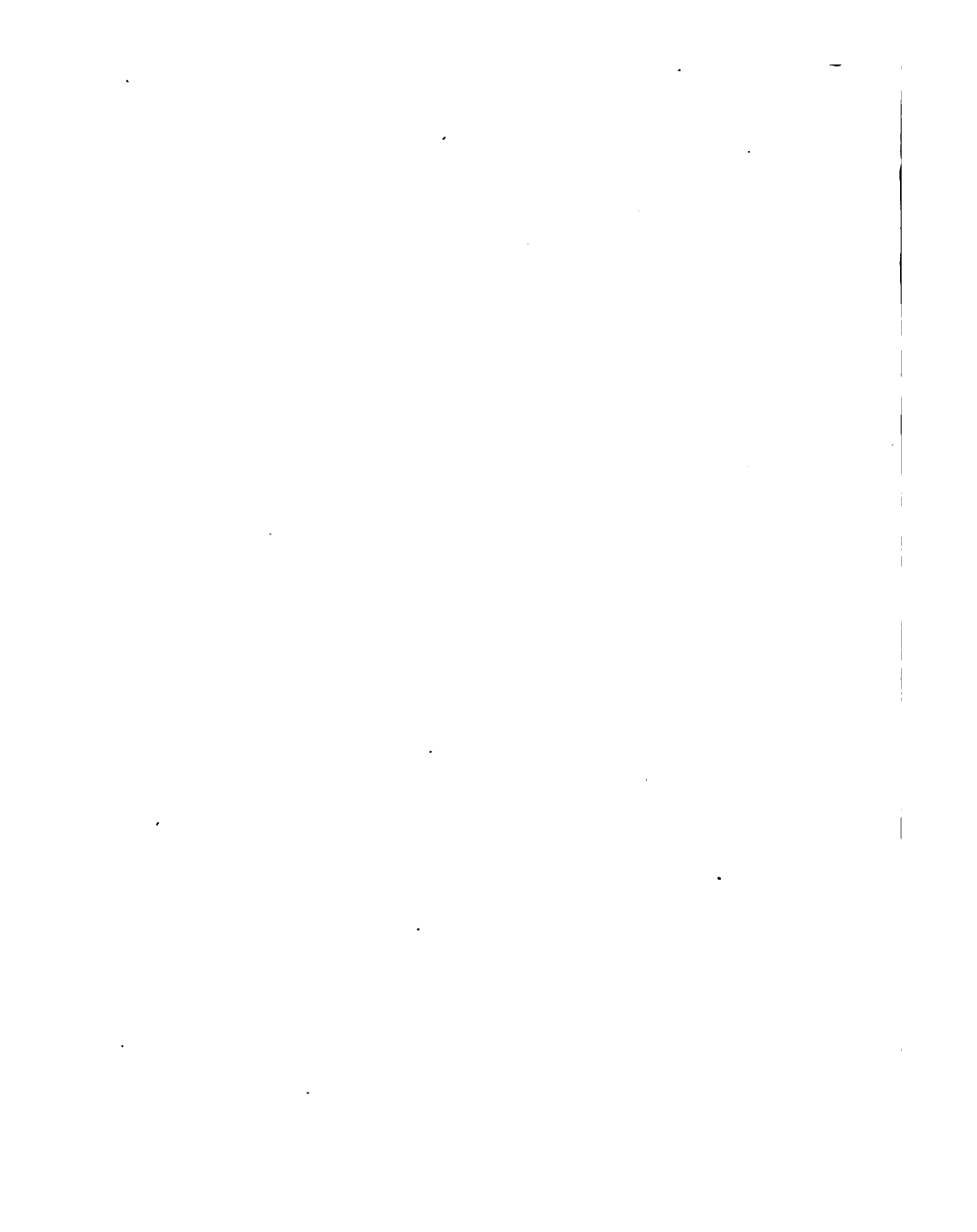
that God should raise the dead and do many other wonderful works through his faithful servants? If Christians would only obey Him, the things that Christ did would they do also and greater works than those would they do because Christ has gone to the Father and has poured out His wonder working Spirit upon all who will respond to carry out His new and supernatural program of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, self-control, faith, as experienced and preached by all who go with Him to give the gospel to a lost world.

In other words, Miss Vaughan, believes in the efficacy of faith and prayer. But faith and prayer are just ways of obeying Jesus Christ when he says: "All authority has been given unto me in heaven and on earth. *Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things*

whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

We invite anybody and everybody to read these personal testimonies, and then set about specifically and in harmony with God's will as revealed in His word and His world to have similar experiences themselves. I do not mean that they should undertake to duplicate just such events as are reported here; but that they apply the principles of faith and prayer to their everyday problems, and to the issues of life as they exist, and set about righting and adjusting the wrongs and irregularities of the world in God's way. Let them do this one by one, definitely and specifically, making each one a test case before God in the laboratory of faith and prayer and it will not be long before they will personally realize that God is our Father who hears and answers His children when they call unto Him. But let each one be fully persuaded in his own mind. Let him know that he must be

a willing and obedient child ready to go with Jesus Christ unto the uttermost in the spirit and practice of the Gospel for a lost world. Let him know that the sin of Selfishness, of Exclusiveness, of Racialism, of Covetousness, of Sectarianism, of Provincialism, of Pharasaism,—*all* sin must be confessed before God and repented of in the spirit of abandonment: and that the will to obey God in everything known to be His command and desire must be exercised to the fullest degree of purpose. Thus it was we got the story of the Acts of the first Apostles; thus it will be in the repetition of all such experiences. Are we willing to pay the price? Such experiences cost dearly. But they pay big dividends, as the following pages clearly demonstrate.



CHAPTER I

My First Bible Class in China.

In China, in the spring of nineteen hundred three, I held my first Bible class for women inquirers. Having spent five years in the study of the language and in training in Christian work, I was delighted to find myself in a position where it was possible to bring the blessed gospel of the grace of God to my Chinese sisters.

In the little village of Dung Kia An, hid away in the heart of the beautiful Lao mountains, the Chinese pastor had gathered together twenty-five women, that I might instruct them. In a ten-day school session I was to give them a saving knowledge of the Truth. I assumed that they all could read, at least a little, and I had bright hopes of what I should be able to do for them.

But as I talked personally, with the members of my class, those bright hopes died. One informed me that I could teach her nothing, her heart and mind were as hard and dark as mahogany wood. The next one said that she knew nothing; that she had never learned a thing in her life; and anyway how could she be expected to study with her children to care for, one a baby in her arms and the other a little one of three at her side? Following her came a woman of more than sixty years. As she talked to me she wiped her eyes with her sleeve.

"It was very nice of you to come to teach us, Miss Vaughan, but I can't learn; I'm too old. Besides I have cried day and night since I was thirteen and went to my mother-in-law's home and now my eyes are ruined." (Many Chinese women cry themselves blind before they are forty years old.) "I can see nothing clearly, how can I see to read books?"

All of the members of the class were in practically the same condition.

They had never been to school, they did not know one character of their language from another and they were sure they could not learn—they had been taught from childhood that they had no brains. Every one of them had bound feet and the constant pain detracted their attention from everything they tried to do.

A more discouraged teacher than I, at the end of my roll call, it would have been difficult to find. I said to myself, "How can these women be taught? They have come to me because their pastor has sent them. Their minds are wholly undeveloped and they have not even a wish to improve."

Utterly dismayed at the task before me I went to my room to pray. There had been a very insistent question in my heart, "Where is your faith in God?"

What has faith to do with this? I answered, "This is my task and it is humanly impossible."

"With men this is impossible; but

with God all things are possible," came the answer to my argument.

I dropped to my knees confessing my ignorance and helplessness, and prayed that God would show me exactly what that passage meant.

Immediately, like a flash of light in a dark room, came these two promises: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, *I will do it.*" (John 14:13-14).

My burden rolled away as I realized the full import of these gracious words. I had nothing to do but to ask, for the Omnipotent God, my Savior and the Savior of these women, He who had died for us, had promised to do for me whatever I asked. I knew not how nor when but He would fulfill His promise.

I felt in my heart the truth of these words:

"We are coming to a King,
Large petitions will we bring."

I made no small request. I asked

the Father to forgive them for Jesus' sake, to pour out His Holy Spirit upon them, convincing them of sin, of righteousness and of the world to come; to reveal to them the Lord, Jesus Christ as their personal Savior; to cleanse them in His precious blood from the guilt and stain of sin; and finally to fill them with His Holy Spirit that they might return to their homes to witness for Jesus.

Back to this class of illiterate women, bound in chains of iron by their superstitions, I went rejoicing in the Lord who had made such abundant provision for bringing the world to Himself, and resolved to wait patiently for Him to perform His miracle in each of their darkened and sinful hearts.

Meanwhile I taught them this prayer: "Heavenly Father, forgive me my sins, cleanse me from them in the precious blood of Christ, and fill me with the Holy Spirit; I ask in Jesus' name."

Some of the women spent the great-

er part of three days in learning correctly and intelligently this very simple petition.

My first day with them passed slowly, with no sign from God that He had heard my prayer. Throughout the next morning there was still no evidence that He was working. But that afternoon while we were on our knees repeating together the little prayer, one of the women began to weep out a confession of her sins. She asked that she might be forgiven and cleansed in the precious blood and that the Holy Spirit would come into her heart and dwell there. In a few moments we rose from our knees to greet a new creature in Christ Jesus. In the course of the next few days woman followed woman in a similar experience until the entire class rejoiced in their salvation. They were marvelously transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, for they were now so eager to learn of Christ that I could scarcely find time to satisfy them. My strength was taxed to the utmost in

giving them the help and teaching they sought.

During the next ten years of my residence in China, I held five or six classes of this kind annually. I always claimed those promises of John 14:13-14 and trusted in God to do the work in response to the prayer of faith. I do not know of one, in all this time, who left my classes unsaved.

In one village where I was teaching a heathen woman came to hear me out of curiosity to see a white woman who could speak the Chinese language. After listening to the little prayer which I was teaching she asked if she might learn it.

I answered, "Would you like to have a Savior and are you willing to accept Him?"

She said yes and became a member of my class. In the afternoon she returned and took her place with the others. When the invitation was given for all to kneel in prayer, to my astonishment this woman, Mrs. Wang, began to sob, confessing her sins and plead-

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ing with the Lord to forgive her and to cleanse her heart and save her.

That same evening I gave the women John 14:13-14 and told them that these promises were their inheritance. Then I asked them what they wished to pray for.

Mrs. Wang stood up and asked, "Can the Lord Jesus save my husband?"

I told her that He was the omnipotent God.

"Oh," she said, "but you don't know my husband; he is a drunkard. I've never known him to come home sober since I married him. I'm forty-five now and I went to my mother-in-law's a bride of less than fourteen years. He spends so much money for drink, that the children and I never have enough to eat, nor warm clothing enough to keep us comfortable in winter. Can the Lord Jesus save a man like that, Miss Vaughan?"

"Yes," I replied, "He came to seek and to save that which was lost."

Then I asked of her, "Can you believe?"

She burst into tears, "Oh, yes, but I'm so ignorant. I don't know how to pray. Won't you pray for me?"

I put the matter before the class, telling them we must be agreed to pray every day for this man until he was converted. This we did for two weeks, at the end of which time the class had to be disbanded that I might go on with my work in other territory.

A year later, I returned to this district. The morning my class opened Mrs. Wang was among the first arrivals. Rushing in and throwing her arms around me, she praised God for his goodness to her.

"Please, Miss Vaughan," she said, "ask the women to sit down while I tell them what the Lord has done."

This was her story: "A year ago, at the close of the class in which I learned to know my Savior, I went home and told my husband I had become a Christian. He was furiously angry and beat me so that I was not

able to leave my kang* for a month. During that time he reviled me and cursed me every day. I had only my little son to prepare my food and care for me. When I was well my husband continued to persecute me for six months. All the time I prayed for him constantly. I just asked God to forgive him *because he didn't understand*.

"And then one day he came home early from a neighboring market, sober for the first time since I had known him.

"'What is the matter with you?' I cried in astonishment.

"'That's what I came to ask you,' he replied. 'What is the matter with me? Am I out of my mind?'

"'Why,' I said, 'what has happened?'

"'A great deal,' he answered. 'To-day when I had finished my business in the market I went across to the wine

*A kang (pronounced kong) is the mud brick platform covered with straw matting where the entire family sleeps.

shop, and just as I was lifting my foot over the threshold, a voice inside my body said very loudly, 'Don't go in there, go home! Don't go in there, go home!' I was so startled that I dropped my purse and spilled all my coins on the ground.

"I tried to make myself quiet by thinking, that it must have been some boys making fun of me. I went across the street and searched a man's courtyard and looked carefully around the corners of his house to find the boys, who had called to me. I looked up and down the street but there was not a soul in sight. There were many men in the wine shop, though, I could hear their voices and what they said. I walked over there again. I was very much puzzled and called myself a fool. But again as I lifted my foot over the threshold, there came that voice, louder and more insistent than ever: 'Don't go in there, go home! Don't go in there, go home!' I came right home as fast as I could. I am very much frightened. Do you think

I am losing my mind, or am I already mad? What is the matter with me?"

"‘Oh,’ I said, ‘I know what’s the matter. That’s the Lord Jesus. He is the heavenly Father’s Son. He died on the cross to save you. He does not want you to go in the wine shop and get drunk and be lost. It is the voice of His Holy Spirit speaking to you.’"

"He was astounded. He listened intently while I told him over and over again that Jesus was his Savior.

"Finally he said, ‘Is this that Devil’s doctrine you learned at Tai Tze Dswang?"

"‘Not the Devil’s doctrine, the Jesus doctrine.’"

"‘Well,’ he said, ‘why didn’t you tell me this before? I *didn’t understand*. I’ll never drink any more in my life’."

And he never did. He was truly converted. He became a member of the church and induced his family to become members also, and sent his children to a Christian school.

She lived four years after his con-

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**version and died a blessed happy
Christian, rejoicing in Jesus, and His
power to save. He is alive still.**

CHAPTER II.

Ding Le Mei

In the winter of 1903-4, the Mission transferred me from Chefoo to the new German port of Tsing Tau, where I was placed in charge of the women's work of the fifteen organized churches scattered through the adjoining counties. In other words, to me was given the oversight of the Bible women, girls' schools, and prospective church members.

I had not been long in my new work when the pastors, and some of the elders held a conference relating to the spiritual needs in the various fields in their district. I was asked to describe the methods I used with the women, which resulted in such spiritual enlightenment for them.

"I depend not upon any method," I replied, "but upon the power of the Holy Spirit."

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‘But we haven’t this power,” they informed me.

“No,” I said, “it comes only in response to prayer and faith. The three things always go together, prayer, faith, and power. Do you want this power?”

They said that there was nothing they wanted more.

“Then,” I asked, “would you be willing to form, with me, a circle in which we shall pray daily, first for ourselves and then for each other?”

Eight of them gladly agreed to do so.

Our plan was simple and direct.

Our prayer was, “Heavenly Father, forgive me my sins; send the Holy Spirit into my heart to reveal them to me; cleanse me from them in the precious blood of Jesus, and fill me with Thy Spirit.” This each offered daily for six months.

Pastor Ding Le Mei, a member of our circle who had been called to the five Chi Mo churches, wrote to me at the end of the six months. He invited

me to assist him in conducting a four day conference for deepening the spiritual life of the Chinese Christians under his charge, and I accepted his invitation.

I arrived at the little village of Yuen Dswang at ten o'clock on the morning of the first day of the conference. The meetings had begun, but alas for human plans! It has been said that man proposes and God disposes, but on that day Satan disposed.

Funeral services last for days or weeks, according to the rank or riches of the deceased. A very wealthy man in the village had just died, and arrangements had been made to observe his obsequies throughout all the days of the conference. As I passed along the street I saw piles of paper money, paper cows, horses, sedan chairs, slaves,—everything that the departed spirit would need in the next world, ready to be burned at the burial. Groups of people were sending up skyrocketts to scare away the evil spirits. Everywhere were evidences of

the importance of the occasion; and everywhere absorbing interest and excitement were apparent.

There may be theatres in China that are wholly secular in character, but all about which I know are connected with religious worship, and appropriately therefore, with funeral observances. Now in the temple theatre a company of actors had been hired, and as the performance was free to all, it and the other features of the celebration had attracted immense crowds from the neighboring villages.

These people, unaccustomed to listening to lectures or talks of any kind, made their way by hundreds into the conference tent, talking at the top of their voices, their babies crying and the village dogs barking at their heels. We Christian women, for whom a remote corner of the tent had been roped off, not only could not catch the air of the songs, but not one word that was said or sung could we distinguish during the course of the day.

This noise and confusion, impossible

to control, brought grief and dismay to Pastor Ding.

At the close of the afternoon session, the officers and leaders of his churches went to him in anger and reproached him for his lack of discretion in selecting such an inopportune season for the conference; and they gave him to understand that they did not propose to waste any more time or money on it and would leave the village the next morning, by dawn.

Pastor Ding was the first Chinese pastor to step out, with faith in God, in any enterprise financed by the Chinese Christians. To these men he was looking for financial help. His own salary was too meagre to defray the expenses already incurred. In despair he came to me with his difficulty.

"I already realize what the conditions are and there is only one person who can deal with them," I said. "There is just one person who can turn defeat into victory. That is the Lord and we'll just ask him to do this very thing for us."

Pastor Ding's father and grandfather were Christians, and he had been brought up in the Christian quarter of his village. He loved his Savior and was a man of prayer, but he knew nothing of the "exceeding greatness of God's power to usward who believe" and exercise faith in Christ.

We knelt in prayer for a few minutes, but we were not of one mind in the Lord. He asked God to give me a plan that I might give it to him. In other words he wanted a plan that would enable him to turn his own defeat into victory. Then he sat waiting for me to tell him what to do. I, of course, waited only for Christ to answer the prayer that he had promised to answer. (John 14:13-14). We sat thus for an hour, while my Chinese servant worked himself into quite a fever because I took no notice of the over-cooked supper.

Finally Pastor Ding arose, and Chinese etiquette demanded that I, being a woman, should stand also. So we stood for half an hour. Then I

flew in the face of Chinese convention and asked him to take supper with me. Declining my invitation, his face flushed with anger and impatience, and slamming the door behind him he left me.

(Afterward he told me that he muttered to himself, "That's what I get for asking a woman anything! What does she know?")

I saw him again at the evening service where he was presiding. As we had only Christian men and women in the audience, all was quiet and orderly. The unconverted Chinese stayed at home because of their fear of evil spirits in the darkness of the night.

We had prayers, songs and the reading of the scriptures. Pastor Ding was about to give out the text of his address, when the Holy Spirit prompted me to rise and ask, "Won't you give us five minutes for personal prayer? And let each one pray, 'Heavenly Father, forgive me my sins, send the Holy Spirit into my heart and reveal them to me. Cleanse me from them in the

precious blood and fill me with thy Spirit'."

He consented rather reluctantly, but he repeated my request and added: "Let us kneel and offer this prayer together."

Then a wonderful thing occurred. The Holy Spirit came upon the Assembly so suddenly and with such mighty power, that before their knees touched the floor, they were all, as with one voice, sobbing aloud their sins of omission and commission, sins of neglect of the spiritual lives of their children, of not loving one another and not loving God, sins of quarrelling, of covetousness, of hatred, and of Sabbath breaking.

The men who, in the afternoon had gone with complaints to Pastor Ding, now weeping, called upon God to deliver them from covetousness. They had made the failure of the meeting an excuse to leave when their real reason was to avoid their share of defraying the expenses. Then in a few moments God had swept all difficul-

ties away. He had truly turned defeat into victory.

For more than half an hour the confessions continued. Then we stood up and sang four times the hymn which begins,

"There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emanuel's veins."

I shall never forget that singing nor that scene—those upturned, tear stained Chinese faces with the light of heaven upon them.

Then came more confessions, testimonies, prayer and praise unceasing, for two hours.

Pastor Ding tried again and again to preach the sermon he had prepared but he never got a chance. When at last, near the close of the meeting, he secured a hearing, he told of his interview with me. He had confessed to God his lack of faith. And he asked my pardon for his rudeness. Then, turning to his people, he begged their forgiveness for attempting to lead them in his own blindness. "And," he added, "I call you, Miss Vaughan, and

you, my brothers and sisters, to witness that I promise never again to use in God's service, any method save that of prayer and faith. Tonight I have seen the mighty power of God in answer to prayer and I rejoice."

During the remaining days of the conference, the Holy Spirit held control, and though we had the same great crowds from the theatre, they sat or stood quietly throughout the service. Every speaker was heard distinctly, even in the women's remote corner.

And God's gracious purpose of blessing by means of the Conference had been fully accomplished. Chinese Christians and leaders who had come to us from a distance returned home, their hearts and minds full of the glory of God's goodness and power. Everywhere they proclaimed the news of our great answers to prayer and requests for similar meetings began to pour in. Pastor Ding and I responded as fully as our physical strength permitted. For seven months we went

from Conference to Conference, returning home only for brief preparations for starting out anew. At every Conference the Spirit was poured out in power and blessing, as fully as at Yuen Dswang.

Pastor Ding Le Mei had entered upon his life work as an evangelist. Later on he accepted an invitation to tour Shan Tung Province and everywhere God manifested his power by means of his servant's faith. Later still the Young Men's Christian Association arranged for him to visit all the schools, colleges, and universities throughout China. God has so marvelously empowered him that he is known today as the "Apostle of China," and "China's Moody."



CHAPTER III.

The Other Six

I have been asked, "Was the prayer of your circle of eight as abundantly answered for the six others as it was for you and Pastor Ding?"

Elder Liu came to a realization of his wonderful privilege in using his means for Christ. At one time he gave four thousand dollars in gold, the largest gift from a Chinese Christian ever known in that part of the country.

Elder Ding increased his contribution to the Chinese Church ten-fold and for years gave his services as Principal of the Girls' School at Ta Shun Tan. During all this time he taught two advanced classes, daily.

Pastor Swen, who at the time of our prayers had the care of three churches which had recanted during the Boxer

uprising, was enabled under God to restore them from their backsliding. He was "thoroughly furnished" spiritually for the enlarged work and responsibility to which he was afterward called when he became pastor of the Chinese church in the Southern Capital, Nanking. Of this church, one of our most important mission centers, he is still in charge.

Elder Tsiao and his wife were so blessed in their new vision that they dedicated to the use of The Women's Bible Training School a house of fourteen rooms. This house was used during the six years of my principalship, free of rent. During all this time Mrs. Tsiao gave her services as matron.

The value of the testimony of these two to the students of the Training School is beyond human reckoning.

I have not kept in touch with Pastor Tung and do not know the details of his experience. I do know, however, that his blessing was great.

**THE BACK-SLIDDEN
CHURCH**



CHAPTER IV

The Back-Slidden Church

As stated in the last chapter, Pastor Swen had been called to take charge of three churches, many of whose communicants had recanted during the Boxer massacres. He was much perplexed over one of them in particular, practically all of whose members had denied their Lord, in those dark and painful days. This church, the Chinese Presbytery seriously considered disbanding.

About seven months after the great out-pouring of the Spirit upon the Conference at Yuen Dswang, Mr. —, the American missionary who superintended our work, asked me to lend Pastor Swen a helping hand. A little later I received an invitation to hold revival services in this difficult church, and I gladly embraced the opportunity.

In China, no respectable woman transacts any sort of business. My cook, therefore, accompanied me and beside his regular duty of preparing my meals, went to the market for food and made negotiations in the inns for donkeys or wheel barrows to carry me and my baggage from place to place.

One evening I arrived at the village of the back-slidden church. I had traveled in due state with my Bible-woman and cook in a wheel barrow. We were escorted to the home of our host, the former evangelist of this church. There my Bible-woman and I were taken to a room which opened onto a hall and the hall in turn led to the street. According to Chinese conventionalities, this was no fit place for women. But worse still the place reeked with the odor of stale opium smoke. I afterwards learned that my host and some evil associates had made a compact to open this room and the others across the front of the house as a public opium den, on Chinese New Year.

While as guests, we waited for some of the Christians of the town to call upon us, we learned that the church could not be had for our services. An anti-Christian, anti-foreign teacher and his pupils already occupied it. We made inquiries as to the possibility of securing some hall in the town. None was available. The outlook for a series of revival meetings was not hopeful.

While we sat discussing our troubles we heard steps in the hall. The curtain at the door, the only shield for our privacy, was jerked aside, and some queer looking Chinese men looked in.

"Hello, what's the foreign devil doing here?" exclaimed the one who had jerked the curtain.

Another, almost hidden in smoke from his pipe, called to some one behind, "The devil's old wife is in here, let's move on."

My Bible-woman and I were much alarmed. Just then my cook came in very angry and resentful wishing to

know where he was to sleep. We suggested that he ask our host for some straw in the stable.

"I have already asked him," he replied. "He says he has no straw. I just saw two large stacks in the yard. What can you do with a man like that?"

"There's nothing we can do," I answered. "Only the Lord can help us and we must ask Him to, now."

The three of us knelt in prayer, and when we arose I knew that next morning I should leave for another town. I sent the cook to a village three miles away to spend the night and to procure some wheel barrows. I knew he could not get them from the village we were stopping in.

The dawn came at last and with it the arrival of our barrows. Into them we packed our belongings with all possible speed.

The Christians of the town heard that I was leaving. Led by the one or two who had not recanted during the Boxer trouble, they gathered about

me tearfully. They plead that they had been trusting God to use me in helping them, that they would never have another opportunity to be revived and that my going was a spiritual calamity. I told them that they could never have God's blessing until they repented and gave evidence of their repentance, by taking their church out of the hands of the heathen teacher and putting it again under the control of the Christians. I assured them that I would return to them as soon as possible, after they had decided to be obedient to God, and had arranged to have services in their building. I assured them that when all this had been done they might confidently expect God's blessing. Very reluctantly but very determinedly I parted from them.

As we left the village we were seen by the evangelist in whose home we had spent the night and whom Satan had used to work his will in the church. When he was told what had occurred his anger toward me knew

no bounds. "Fifteen foreign missionaries have visited this church, and not one of them has treated me with such insolence and contempt," he said. "And she an unmarried woman!"

After the Boxer trouble was over, Germany, Austria, and the United States forced the Chinese government to pay indemnity to their citizens for their personal losses. This recanting evangelist had been imprisoned because of false claims at that time. Since then, three years ago, he had never opened his Bible, but in the midst of his abuse of me, he obeyed an impulse to take it from its shelf. The first words his eyes fell upon were those of Matthew 10:14. "And whosoever shall not receive you nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." They were the two-edged sword of the Spirit, piercing to the very heart. He went in great distress and called the other Christians to come into the opium den where we had slept, and there with tears and prayers

for forgiveness they all made their confessions to God. They then arranged to notify the non-Christian teacher and his pupils that they must vacate the church building. Later on they sent me an invitation to return to them on February 2, 1904, about three months after my first uncomfortable visit.

When I arrived, Pastor Swen, mistakenly assumed that the Christians of the congregation were now right with God personally, when they had taken only one step in repentance. He held a meeting in which he asked them to be responsible for the salary of a teacher whom he had engaged in the name of the church for a much-needed girls' school. They promptly told him that they would do nothing of the kind.

I insisted that when these people were right with God, not only as a church, but also individually, they would support this school.

He and I conducted meetings for ten days, holding sessions mornings, afternoons, and evenings. We spent many

hours in praying alone or together, trusting the Holy Spirit to convict the individual Christians of their personal sins against God.

On the evening of the tenth day, shortly after the opening of the service, we gave a general invitation for prayer and confession of sin. Suddenly the evangelist, falling down on his face to the very ground burst into tears and most agonizing sobs. When he had recovered control of his voice sufficiently to make his confession, he began at the first commandment of the Decalogue and went through the ten, confessing that he had broken them every one. Neither I nor any one else present had ever seen a human being in such mental and spiritual agony over sin. He continued to weep and pray for some time before he received the assurance of forgiveness.

Others of the congregation began to be deeply convicted of their personal sins. The soul-searching work of the Spirit continued for several days until

every member of the church was restored to communion with the Lord.

Then we appointed an evening to be spent in prayer for the salary of the teacher for the girls' school.

Before I left the village the full amount was contributed, the teacher had arrived, and the school was opened. It continued to be supported by the church for two years.

The evangelist lived for four and a half years; and throughout this time was a consistent and faithful witness for the Lord Jesus Christ in what was no longer "The Back-Slidden Church," and not only there but elsewhere and to whomsoever the Lord sent him.



CHAPTER V

Fallen from Grace

In the summer of 1900, Mr. Leng, a Chinese evangelist, was preaching near Tsing Tau. In company with many other Christians who were pursued by the Boxers, he had escaped to that city.

There, because of his knowledge of English he secured a temporary position as interpreter for the German contingent going North to the relief of Tien Tsin. Finding it unsafe to return to Tsing Tau he next proceeded with the troops to Peking.

In Peking he indulged in resentment against the Boxers and their supporters. He forgot his Master and the grace that had redeemed him; he forgot that he was to love his enemies and pray for them that despitefully used him. Joining the foreign soldiers in looting the city, he enriched himself

with goods and silver thrown into the street from burning stores and banks. He even took spoil from the palace of the Empress An, among other things some imperial garments. He chose to ignore the law of capital punishment for any one taking possession of any property of the reigning family.

He contrived in some manner to have all his booty conveyed to his own home.

Leng's ill gotten riches became his undoing. He was a terror not only to his family but to the whole village. In a drunken fury he had killed one of his own children. The neighbors finally became so much afraid that they reported his conduct to the government. The soldiers who came to arrest him searched his home and found the imperial garments. He was tried and sentenced to be beheaded.

His sentence was not executed, however, for the condemning official was suddenly removed, and in the confusion of readjustment of the Chinese

government after the Boxer uprising, Leng was left a prisoner.

About a year later, I was conducting a class in the village in which Mrs. Leng lived with her children, in her mother's home. One evening Mrs. Leng, the children, and a brother of Mr. Leng, called upon me and asked me to intervene in behalf of their relative. Their idea seemed to be that as I was a member of the great Presbyterian Mission of America, it would only be necessary for me to write a letter, (with my card enclosed) asking the chief official to release Leng. In spite of my explanation they stayed until the middle of the night, pleading and weeping and even getting down on their knees to me. I assured them again and again that their plan was impossible for several reasons, but chiefly because women members of the Mission were not allowed to write letters of intercession for anyone who had disobeyed the laws of the land.

At last they became angry and ac-

cused me of lack of love for the church members.

They were wrong, I told them. They were trusting in man's power instead of God's. After another long discussion I persuaded them to commit their trouble to the Lord. I am sure now, that they yielded not because they had faith in my plan but because they could not induce me to promote theirs.

I told them that we must ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us what sins of omission and commission he would have us confess, and that we must trust the Heavenly Father to forgive and cleanse them; that we must pray for our brother Leng as a sinner and ask God to forgive his backsliding. We all agreed to offer this petition every day until the Lord heard and answered. And we kept our word.

Again a year passed by, during which God was working. A second official left his post so hurriedly that he, too, was unable to execute the death sentence on Leng.

A third official succeeded,—pro-

Christian and pro-foreign. He was of the new regime in China, which finally brought about the downfall of the Manchu Dynasty. Being informed that Leng was a Christian, a man of western education and under sentence of death, he took him into his own home as tutor to his sons. Leng was most satisfactory in this capacity.

Finally a day came, when just as suddenly as the second official had been transferred, the third one also was ordered to another post. It is customary in China when a person of importance goes upon a journey, for his friends, servants, and slaves, and usually some mere hangers-on to accompany him along his way one mile, or two, or three. Leng took his place as tutor, in the procession and walked several miles by the official's sedan chair. A few at a time in the procession dropped back until only Leng was left.

"Well, Mr. Leng," said the official, grasping Leng's hand, "thank you for

your services. I hope we shall meet again and good bye!"

No word of the death sentence, no mention of return to prison. By an intentional slip the official had released him and he stood in the road alone, a free man.

In a few days, he arrived at the village where his wife and children were staying. In God's beautiful providence Pastor Ding and Pastor Swen were there conducting a Conference with the Chinese Christians.

When Mr. Leng heard of the Holy Spirit so deeply convicting men of their sins that they made public confession of them, he was very indignant. There had been no such immodest doings in the church in his day as an evangelist, he said.

A group of us, who heard of these remarks, met in earnest prayer. We pleaded especially that the Spirit would convict him of his own sins.

That same day I was the leader for afternoon session of the Conference. At the close of my address Mr. Leng

arose and poured out his heart before God, in confession and contrition. He was pardoned and cleansed and a great peace fell upon his spirit.

For four and a half years he was a blessed witness for Christ. At the end of that time he died suddenly of hemorrhage of the lungs. His excess and his long imprisonment were largely responsible. His dying message was, "Tell Han Ku Niang that I will meet her in Heaven."



CHAPTER VI

The Woman Who Saw Heaven

In the year of 1904, I held a meeting of several days' duration in the city of Wang Kia Kwan Dswang. My audience consisted of the most stupid and ignorant of Chinese women. Some of them were converts, but most of them came to hear the gospel for the first time. Among these last was a Mrs. Jang, who seemed, if possible, a little more stupid than the rest. She was one of our number not because of any interest she felt in Bible-truth, but because her husband, formerly a Confucian scholar, had accepted the Savior and wished her to know something of the fundamental principles of Christianity. Her two little children, who were always with her, consumed much of her time and strength. There were some twenty others in the class

to be taught and I had little chance to give individual attention. The prospect for her learning enough of the truth to be converted was not encouraging.

My one method of work, however, was prayer with complete reliance upon the power of God through the Holy Spirit to fulfill His promise in John 14:13, 14. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." In the course of these meetings the Father was glorified in the conversion of Mrs. Jang; for after four days of simple instruction she returned to her home a new creature in Christ Jesus.

About six months later, when I was holding services in a neighboring village, Mrs. Jang appeared again. This time she brought three children and the family dog. (She had given away the chickens.) Again she staid four days, absorbed as much truth as she

could under the trying circumstances, and again returned home.

Soon after she contracted tuberculosis and suffered intensely for a year. Her physical pain was only a part of her distress. Her family realized that a great change had taken place in her life, but they would not accept her testimony. They were especially bitter because she unbound her feet. Disregarding such a time honored custom was a serious disgrace to them. They tortured her in all sorts of little meannesses. She would be refused a drink when she was too ill to get it for herself, and she was frequently told that she was to be buried with her feet bare. A modest Chinese woman has only her face and hands uncovered, even in death.

In the midst of all her pain and trials Mrs. Jang maintained a bright, clear testimony. She grieved only because her dear ones would not receive the message of life that so thrilled and comforted her own soul.

The dreadful disease had about

done its work, when again I found myself in her vicinity. The pastor of the church in which I was speaking came to tell me of her year of suffering.

"Miss Vaughan," he said, "the only prayer she has offered for herself during all these months is that she may see your face again."

Needless to say I went to her immediately. I was received with a welcome of such apparently boundless affection that I felt I had never before known what love was. A few days passed. It was evident that it was God's will to take Mrs. Jang home, and we who loved her ceased to pray for her recovery. We asked only that God would give her great peace in going, and lift from her heart the burden of grief that it carried because her testimony had not been received by those nearest her.

I made what I supposed was my last visit to her. "We will never see our friend on earth again," I said to my class. "She is very near the heavenly

home, and can not possibly live through the night."

Early the next morning her father called upon me. "Your daughter is now at rest and in the Savior's presence," I said.

He smiled. "Oh no, no!" he said excitedly. "The Lord has performed a wonderful miracle. She is alive again!"

Then he explained. Mrs. Jang had died at three o'clock the afternoon before, and her family, in accordance with Chinese custom had immediately prepared her body for burial. At about sunset they heard a noise in the death chamber. They supposed that the children or pigs or chickens (they have equal freedom in the houses of the poor) had gotten into the room. But when they opened the door they could scarcely believe their eyes. Mrs. Jang sat erect on the kang. She had removed her grave clothes and put on those she had been wearing before her death!

I never taught Revelation in China

and nothing had ever been told Mrs. Jang of the glories of Heaven as described in that book. She had instruction for only eight days in her life.

This is her story as she related it to me: "I remember seeing all the family around me crying. Then the Lord Jesus came into my room and took me by the hand and said, 'Come with me.' In a short time we were before a gate of pearl. It was the gate of Heaven. Angels opened it and we went in. I saw many beautiful houses all of pretty colors. I walked beside the Lord on the golden streets, and oh, Miss Vaughan, I was so glad you had told me to unbind my feet; I would have been so ashamed to walk beside my Savior with little feet.

"Then we went on and I saw thousands of angels in a circle, singing and playing lovely music. In the midst was the throne of glory, the Heavenly Father sat upon it and when I saw Him I was afraid. I hardly dared to lift my eyes."



" 'You have come,' He said.

"And I answered, 'Yes, Lord.'

"Then He said, 'You may go back for a while, but you must return to me here on the twelfth of the month.'

"So Miss Vaughan, here I am, and now they'll have to accept my testimony, for I have walked on the golden streets and I've seen the Father. They'll have to believe me now."

Did her relatives and neighbors believe her?

People flocked in from miles around to hear the wonderful story. She spoke as an eye witness and they could not reject her testimony. God's mighty power was upon it, and hundreds were converted. Even today missionaries in the vicinity find an eager reception for the gospel message because that is the "Jesus doctrine" believed by Mrs. Jang who went to heaven and came back again to tell what she saw.

The days passed until the twelfth of the following month. When that day came the family tried to convince Mrs.

Jang that she had reckoned the date incorrectly, but her eager heart was not to be deceived. Late in the afternoon she asked her mother for her grave clothes. Under strong protest they were folded and put on the bed. At sunset while the family were at their evening meal in an adjoining room, she dressed herself quietly in her burial garment, then lay down and her beautiful soul went back to her God.

Just an ignorant Chinese woman whose whole education had been gained in a few days; yet how wonderfully God used her to his glory in the saving of souls.

At the coming of our Lord, when every man's work shall be made manifest, shall we who have the light of the glorious gospel from our early youth be able to say with Mrs. Jang, "Father, I have glorified Thee on the earth. I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do."

THE RAIN STORY



CHAPTER VII

The Rain Story

The Theological Seminary of Shan Tung Union University is located in Tsing Chao Fu in Shan Tung province, and is conducted under the auspices of the American Board of Foreign Missions and the English Baptist Mission.

One of its professors was visiting Tsing Tau in May, 1908, when I returned to my headquarters there. I had been itinerating among the churches for about seven months and I was very tired. This professor very kindly invited me to go to his home for my two weeks of much needed rest. I accepted gladly for I thought the attention and activities of the community would be centered in the semi-

nary, and therefore it was not likely that I would be called upon to conduct meetings.

The entire province of Shan Tung, (in which I now visited) was suffering from drought, for not one drop of rain had fallen for three months. And while the province has a smaller area than the state of Missouri, its population is twenty-eight and one half millions. Every one with the exception of the Christians was propitiating the rain god, that is they were offering paper money, food and drink and were having great processions to do him honor.*

The university students were deeply concerned about conditions. They had observed the useless sacrifices of

* The sacred money of China is bought with the currency of the realm, but it has no purchasing value. It is used only as an offering to the gods, or to the spirits of the departed ones at their funerals.

Food is presented to the gods and eaten before them. Drink is poured out on the ground in token of dedication to them.

Processions also indicate prayer and worship. In those which had been formed every day in Tsing Chao Fu, every family in the city was represented by at least one member,—whenever practicable by the entire household.

money, food and drink and the numerous processions.

After two days of rest I was surprised to be called upon on Thursday afternoon and asked to hold a half-hour prayer meeting with a few students from my own church territory.

When I entered the class room at the appointed time the twelve Chinese students present stood up and one of them addressed me. "Miss Vaughan, you have been in our homes, and you know everyone of our families. You know what it will mean to us if our wheat crop fails,—famine, pestilence, and death.

"Now the whole city with the exception of the Christians, has been praying to the rain-god. We have seen him carried over the fields day by day for six weeks with the chief official and thousands of the inhabitants of the city following him. Now at last they've given up in despair. They have carried him outside the city walls and cast him in a field. They said to him:—'We leave you here to blister in

the sun until you feel some pity for us and our families.'

"We understand why there is no answer to prayers made to this or to any other idol. We are sufficiently educated to know that there is no power in gods of clay. But, Miss Vaughan, we too have been praying for six weeks and God has not answered us. We are face to face with this question, 'Is there anything in this religion of Jesus Christ, or is it, too, just a farce?' We don't *know* that our God is any more able or willing to answer prayer than the clay rain-god is. We have seen no evidence in this case that he exists at all."

Although these students were honestly doubting the love, the power, and the personality of God they had not wholly lost their faith for they asked, "Why is it that your prayers and Pastor Ding's are answered and ours not?"

"There are three hinderances to God's answering our prayers," I replied. "Sins of transgression of God's

law, sins of non-conformity to His will, and the sin of unbelief. Let me ask you a question. Are you willing to look to God to show you what sins have been hindering your petition for rain, and when He reveals them to you are you willing to confess them?"

"Oh, yes!" they said.

"Then," I answered, "let each of us offer this prayer:—'Heavenly Father, forgive me my sins, send the Holy Spirit into my heart to reveal them to me. Cleanse me in the precious blood of Jesus and fill me with Thy Holy Spirit for Jesus' sake. Amen.'"

Our knees had scarcely touched the floor before these young men, some of them unable to finish the little prayer, were sobbing out a confession of their sins before God; sins of unforgiveness, of not trusting Him, of hating fellow students; sins of not witnessing for Jesus in their own families; and in the college; sins of lying, cheating, breaking rules and profaning the Sabbath. Then we prayed together and asked God to send us the rain.

These young men told their fellow students of what had occurred and the next day about thirty came to the meeting. Practically the same questions were asked and the same answers given. Again we had the outpouring of the Spirit in convicting power. The confessions followed, and again we prayed for rain.

On the third day, Saturday, seventy-five students attended our meeting, and the experiences of the previous meetings were repeated.

Then I was invited to lead, at eight o'clock Sunday morning, a prayer meeting of the entire student body, one hundred and sixty in number.

Once more we had questions and answers similar to those of our first meeting, we offered our simple prayer and once more conviction and confession followed. (I was much interested during these days in observing that those students who attended several of the meetings made further confession of sins and prayers for cleansing.)

On this Sunday, a committee of students was appointed to wait upon their professors to ask that all school work be suspended that the students might devote their time to confession and prayer. The faculty, delighted with the wonderful manifestation of God's power, gladly suspended classes for the time, and asked the committee to arrange for the services they wanted. This was the daily program:—

- 7:00-7:30 Prayer for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit throughout the day.
- 10:00-12:00 Confession of sins and prayer for rain.
- 1:30-5:00 Students to go, in groups of threes, all over the city explaining to people in the streets, in the stores, workshops, stalls of the market place and even in the residences of the city officials, what was being done among the students.

This was their message, which they had submitted to the faculty for approval:—"We have come to you to tell you that we are Christians and that at the Jesus Church we are confessing our sins to the Heavenly Father and asking His forgiveness and praying in the name of His Son Jesus that He will send us rain. Will you join us? You can do so in your own homes or up in the Jesus Church."

The program was adhered to until Thursday night. Still there was no rain. The sky was like brass and the earth like a furnace and full of great cracks because of the dryness. A few more such days and the wheat would be burned up!

On this day I was not in the meetings. The preceding evening the professor who was my host had asked, "Miss Vaughan, how long do you intend to keep this thing up?"

"Just until rain comes," I replied. But realizing that the faith of this man was becoming very weak I resolved to wait upon the Lord in prayer and fast-

ing. About the middle of the morning I opened my Bible to the forty-third chapter of Isaiah. My eyes went straight to the nineteenth verse and my joy was unspeakable as I read that wonderful promise: "Behold I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

I closed the book and thanked God for the answer to our prayer.

The next morning we awakened to find the sky covered with black clouds and a light rain falling. The rain continued until three in the afternoon. Then suddenly a strong wind blew the clouds away and the sun shone brighter and hotter than ever. I was resting in my room, when I became aware of people outside the French window and looking out I saw the entire student body of the Seminary. I soon realized from the urgent questions that were asked that I must give a talk on faith and prayer then and there. That I did.

"Have we sinned so deeply that God is too angry to forgive us?" they asked. "Did He send the rain this morning to show us His power, and did he stop it to teach us that our sins are so great that he cannot give the blessing we ask?"

"No, my brothers," I answered. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' His love is as boundless as the ocean. His mercy and grace have no limit. There is something more that he wants us to do and we must wait upon Him until He shows us what it is. Let me suggest that instead of going to the city this afternoon, (it was already well canvassed) that each of us retire to his own room and that we ask God to reveal to us what He would have us do next.

At the evening meeting one of the students asked permission to speak and came up on the platform. "I know what the will of God is in this matter," he said. "We know what

peace and joy we gain by confessing and being cleansed from our sins. The Heavenly Father does not wish us to keep these blessings to ourselves. I propose that tomorrow we again form groups and carry the message, not to the city but to every one of the twenty-six country churches that belong to this mission. We can reach the farthest one by tomorrow night, give our message from the pulpit Sunday and return Monday. Who will volunteer?"

In a few minutes, more than enough had offered themselves for the service. All arrangements were speedily made, and early the next morning the twenty-six little bands started on their journeys. That same morning we looked up into the sky and saw those wonderful clouds back again and once more a gentle rain fell! By night (when our students had reached their destinations) it was falling heavily, some of the time in perfect torrents. And it continued!—Saturday night and Sunday, Sunday night and Monday—

never a respite until Wednesday. Our students returned Monday night, their clothing drenched and their faces shining.

"Oh, Miss Vaughan," they said, "we never knew until now what it means to sing 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow.'"

And the wheat crop of the entire Province and large neighboring areas was saved!

Again the committee waited upon the faculty of the Seminary. "We have, for ten days, confessed our sins and prayed for rain. God has wonderfully forgiven our sins and answered our prayers. If you, our teachers, made us magnificent presents, we would take time to thank you for them. We have come to ask you to continue the suspension of our classes for ten days more that we may thank the Heavenly Father for forgiving and delivering us and our families from famine and pestilence.

This, their second request, was granted. We had each morning the

same half hour for prayer for blessing throughout the day. The forenoons were spent in praise and thanksgiving. In the afternoons the students went throughout the city with another brief message: "We have come to tell that we confessed our sins and prayed to our Heavenly Father for rain. He graciously heard our prayer, and has saved us all from destruction. We are holding praise and thanksgiving services in the Jesus Church. Will you join us? You can do so in your own homes or in the church." This message, like the first, was delivered also at the residence of every official.

All the services began with the doxology,—“Praise God from whom all blessings flow.” They consisted of hymns of praise and passages of praise from the Scriptures, of prayers of praise and thanksgiving, and testimonies of praise and thanksgiving for blessings received.

From the first day, citizens from all walks in life flocked to the church. Women hobbled on their poor bound

feet from one or two miles in the country round about. Unconverted persons so crowded the church that there was scarcely any space left for the students and Christians. Overflow meetings were held in class-rooms and dormitories.

On the tenth day, the chief official with his subordinates and their retinues came to give thanks to God for His deliverance.

He said, "I believe yours is the true God, and that you preach the true gospel. I would become a Christian tomorrow if I did not know that I would lose my place and probably my head."

We hardly know how to go about giving an adequate conception of the results of the abounding spiritual blessings that fell with the great rain on that city and province. They are perhaps more easily imagined by the reader than expressed by the writer.

There was, of course, large increase in attendance at the "Jesus Church," and transformed lives were observed

in all quarters and among all classes of people. It was found that scores had been converted through the testimonies of the beautiful ten days of praise.

In the next chapter we relate a single incident as representative of many that were the outcome of God's gracious answer to our prayer for rain.



CHAPTER VIII

One Result of the Answer to the

Prayer for Rain

So deep an impression had been made on the students of the Seminary by God's wonderful answer to the prayer that *every one* of them asked and received permission to preach in the neighboring villages on Sundays.

The following is but one of the many remarkable occurrences in their ministry:—The strongest anti-foreign and anti-Christian village in the district was near Tsing Chao Fu. Its chief official who exercised military, as well as civil authority, had sworn an oath to take the life of any person who in any way allied himself with Christianity, whether to adopt this "Devil's doctrine" himself or to preach it to others.

One Sunday, as a group of students passed near the village, a man ran

screaming from the village gate, went round and round and dropped apparently lifeless to the ground. A crowd gathered and the students hurried across the field to ascertain the trouble. He was mad some people told them and other said, "He is possessed by an evil spirit."

"Can't his people care for him?" asked our students.

"He's a stranger in the village," was the reply.

"Well we are Christians," the students announced bravely, "and we will do what we can to help, and if he has an evil spirit Jesus will cast it out of him." So they took out their Bibles, read a passage of Scripture, and sang a hymn, then knelt in prayer. Then one of the students commanded in Jesus' name that the evil spirit leave the afflicted man. The man sat up, to all appearances perfectly normal. The Christians exhorted him and those standing around him to put their trust in Jesus, and went on their way.

About half a mile from the vil-

lage men came running after them. "Please, sirs," they begged, "come back to the man, the devil has gone into him again."

They returned and there he lay on the ground again, unconscious as before. A little pile of ashes lay beside him. "Oh, you have been burning incense to the spirit!" the Christians exclaimed. "We told you not to do that and that he would surely return if you worshiped him!"

Oh no indeed, they had done nothing of the kind, they said. But when they saw that the Christians were angry and were going to leave them alone with the man they thought to be dying, they fell upon their knees, confessed that they had burned incense and begged the students to drive the demon away once more. And all this, not out of pity for the dying man but because the Chinaman believes he will be haunted by the spirits, good and bad, of anyone who dies on his property. So the students offered a prayer for the deliver-

ance of the afflicted one and again the evil spirit left him.

The villagers' delight knew no bounds, for aside from their relief, they were deeply impressed by the power manifest in this belief and they all but worshiped the Christians.

"Won't you come into the village and tell us more of this Jesus doctrine?" they begged.

What an opportunity! Here were the Christians who would not have dared to enter that bitterly anti-Christian village a few hours before, being invited, even begged by a crowd of the villagers themselves, to come in and preach the gospel. They were only too glad to say yes. The following Monday they returned, held meetings for three days, entirely unmolested, and sixty people in that one small village were intelligently converted.

CHAPTER IX

The Demoniac

An incident that occurred during the course of my life in China, awakened me to a realization of the sin of unbelief in my own life and in the hearts of other Christian workers. Although I had left my family, my home and my country for my Master's sake and at His call, I was made to see that in spite of all this, I was grieving Him by not trusting his word more fully.

During a morning session of one of my classes of Chinese women, the most pitiful creature I have ever seen was brought me by her father and brother. Wild eyes, matted hair, tattered clothing, and a skin covered with sores, made her look more like a captured animal than a human being. The poor little baby with her was no less pitiful and its body, too, was covered with sore

places. The woman had made those places, the father told me, by pinching out little pieces of her own flesh and her baby's.

All this misery had been brought on by the cruelty of an idol-worshipping husband and mother-in-law for, although the woman was unconverted herself, she came from a Christian family.

I was appalled. The poor creature was evidently ill as well as deranged. We were far from a physician and over four thousand miles from the only hospital for the insane, at that time, in all China.

In my perplexity and hardly realizing what I was doing, I asked my class how many of them would join me in prayer, believing God could and would help her. There were six Bible-women present and to my astonishment every one of them stood up.

I now realized that I had committed myself to trusting the Lord, and though I felt no direct assurance that He would hear me in this case, to draw

back was to put a limit on his love and power. So boldly, I claimed the promise in John 14:13-14. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name I will do it."

During the next few days we prayed frequently about this matter and during that same time the women of my class came to me again and again to tell me that the woman was possessed of an evil spirit.

"That is not so," I told them very positively. In Christ's day there was demon possession, but learned men to-day tell us that no such thing exists in this century."

I had accepted the word of scientists and not my Bible, and because of that unbelief in my heart, I hindered God's mercy and power for that woman for more than a week.

For seven days we had prayed and her condition was no better. Then on the eighth day as I was seated ready to eat my breakfast, the Lord spoke to me

saying, "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting," (Matthew 18:21). I was willing to fast and began to do so immediately.

A few minutes later two of the Bible-women came to tell me that the Lord had commanded them to fast and to ask me if I would join them. While we were still speaking, two more came from another quarter of the village with exactly the same request. The five of us stood marveling at the wonderful manifestation of God's will when, looking up, we saw the other two coming towards us. We knew before they told their message that it was a repetition of the others.

So we fasted, and prayed for the woman as before. At noon I had her brought to me. I was determined that she should confess her sins, and ask God to heal her disease or insanity as I, in my persistent unbelief, chose to call it. I told her to repeat after me these words:—"Heavenly Father, forgive me my sins and heal me in Jesus' name."

She followed me obediently until she came to the word "Jesus." "I will not say that name, I will not!" she screamed and, tearing out her hair by the roots, she threw it on the floor and spat upon it.

"You shall say that name," I said and pressed her down to her knees again. For an hour I continued to push her down whenever she attempted to rise and command her to say "In Jesus' name." And at last she obeyed.

She was much calmer after that, but she was far from being a sane woman.

But I had learned my lesson and by five o'clock in the afternoon I was ready to open up the channel of God's power by accepting His written word as true.

Walking into the room where the woman was, I went up to her and said, "In Jesus' name, I command thee, thou evil spirit, to leave this woman and never return."

Catching up her child she rushed from the room and to her home, two

of the Bible-women after her. In her home she fell upon her bed, violently ill, and remained so for twenty-four hours. After this she fell into a long quiet sleep from which she awoke a perfectly sane woman.

She came to my class, learned two pages of her catechism, gained a knowledge of prayer, and best of all accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior.



CHAPTER X

The Adopted Sons

The first work I ever did in any of Pastor Chao's churches, was in response to an invitation to teach a class of fifty-six women in Da Shin Tan, Shan Tung Province.

Among these women was a Mrs. Liu, a Christian widow whose husband had died about ten years before; and he, in his provision for her had adopted two nephews as his sons and heirs. To them he had bequeathed fifty acres of land and some money with the understanding that they were to care for their aunt. To her, he left a smaller sum of money, ten acres and a house.

These men misused their fortune and became gamblers and opium smokers. They mortgaged their property heavily and were soon reduced to poverty. Covetousness and dishonesty filled their hearts and under their management of the aunt's little farm,

much of the produce disappeared. She remonstrated, of course, and the first ten years of her widowhood was a series of quarrels.

Seven weeks previous to my visit in Da Shin Tan, these bickerings had culminated in an attempt to take the life of the aunt. Her nephews had beaten her with a heavy bamboo pole, such as the Chinese use for carrying water, and left her dead, as they supposed, on the floor of her home.

In the middle of the night she had regained consciousness. She was frightfully bruised and cut and could not walk but she dared not remain in the house so she had dragged herself on hands and knees to a neighbor's house. There she hid until she was able to escape to the church at Da Shin Tan.

Her nephews returned and stole her money, bedding, grain, and even the cheap straw mat on her kang. Worst of all they had helped themselves to the deed to her property.

Pastor Chao and Elder Ding were

deeply concerned when they heard this story and immediately set about doing everything they could to help her. Their efforts were in vain, however, for the nephews denied all knowledge of the crime.

"Who beat our aunt and stole her things?" they asked innocently. "We don't understand what she is doing in Da Shin Tan village. Tell her to come right home."

The day I arrived in the village I was told the story and requested to do what I could to help.

"What plans has the church in mind?" I asked Elder Ding and Pastor Chao.

"Well, we have two plans!" they told me. "One is to arrange for this woman to marry again, then her husband could protect her."

An ideal Chinese plan I thought to myself, for marriage is the way out of most any difficulty in which the Chinese woman happens to find herself.

"And why don't you carry out this plan?" I asked the gentlemen.

"We are waiting for you to help us."

"And how can I help?" I inquired.

They hesitated and blundered and finally I had it,—the woman didn't want a second husband. In fact she had wept incessantly since he had been mentioned to her.

I gave them to understand that I would never do the least thing to force this woman into an unwelcome marriage.

"Now," I said, "Let's have your second plan."

The second plan was that they proceed to law.

"Why don't you go ahead with your law-suit?" I demanded.

"We can't without your help. You know, Miss Vaughan, that to get a hearing with any official, you must make him a present of a large sum of money. Mrs. Liu's money is all gone. We can't mortgage her property with the deed gone too. Now you are a member of the great American Mission, can't you just write a letter to the official and ask for justice for her?"

I explained that only one member of our mission had this privilege. I could ask him to write such a letter but it would be a month before we could get a reply.

"All right that settles the matter," they concluded. "There's nothing more to be done."

"But, my brothers," I said, "you haven't asked me for my plan."

"Have you a plan!"

"Oh yes, mine isn't anything like yours, but I can guarantee it to work."

They were astounded and incredulous. My next remark left them resentful.

"I shall not tell you my plan," I said, "until you promise to adopt it."

For quite a few minutes such a suggestion seemed preposterous to them but finally curiosity got the upper hand and they promised. Then I said, "God has said He will hear the widow when she cries to Him and He has given us all unlimited latitude in John 14:13-14. 'And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do that the Father

may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name I will do it.' My plan is to ask God to just undertake this whole task for us. And when we have made our petition we will wait until God answers it."

My Chinese brethren were quite sure I was insane but they had promised and they were helpless. Later we knelt and prayed very simply, asking God to forgive our sins and the sins of Mrs. Liu and her nephews and undertake this matter.

This occurred on Wednesday and as often as we had opportunity from that day until Sunday, we waited upon God with our petition. Sunday morning Pastor Chao came running after me as I left the church.

"Read that, read that!" he demanded,, thrusting a foot and a half of Chinese letter into my hands. "It is just wonderful,—just wonderful! The Lord has answered our prayer." He gave me no time to read the letter but hurried to tell me the contents himself. "It says four peace-makers

are coming tomorrow to settle Mrs. Liu's affairs."

"I knew that God would do this thing so much better than we possibly could," I said.

"Oh I know you said that, Miss Vaughan, but I didn't know it would be like this—this is wonderful!"

The entire church was deeply impressed.

Early Monday morning the four peace-makers (lawyers) arrived, and I was asked to meet them. Now it is the custom for peace-makers representing both sides to meet, and, after haggling for hours, sometimes days, to settle on a more or less satisfactory compromise. Knowing this and desiring to be concerned in no affair which could dim the glory due to God I sent word to the peacemakers (much to the chagrin of Pastor Chao) that I would not consent to talk to them unless they were ready to assure me that the last stick and thread of Mrs. Liu's property would be restored to her at once.

Pastor Chao came running back from them immediately, "Why, Miss Vaughan, this is the most wonderful of all, they say that is just what they came to do!"

On Tuesday the officers of the church saw every bit of Mrs. Liu's property restored to its proper place, received from the nephews the key and a written promise to treat their aunt with all respect in the future and returned to the village in triumph.

On Wednesday, just one week from the day on which we offered our first prayer, Mrs. Liu's nephews knelt and asked her forgiveness, asked me to pray for them, and led their aunt back to her home. From that day to the day of my departure for America there was not only a complete absence of strife in that family but many people in the vicinity became Christians because of the testimony of Mrs. Liu and her nephews.

For about six months after the reunion of the Lius I prayed from time to time that God would in some way

let me know what means He had used to effect such a complete change in those two men. I wanted all the facts that bore on this manifestation of "the greatness of his power to-us-ward who believe."

At the end of this time my Chinese servant went for a visit to the home of his people in a village about two miles from the home of Mrs. Liu.

On his return he rushed into my study crying, "Oh Miss Vaughan, the Lord performed a miracle for Mrs. Liu! Don't you remember the woman we prayed for in the spring-time?" I was secretly amused at the "we" for this same boy had considered mere praying and "doing nothing" a poor way out of the difficulty. But I kept a straight face and asked him to tell me about it.

"Why," he said, "all the people in her village and mine are talking about it. You remember that letter came Sunday morning. Well, in the middle of the Saturday night one of the nephews awoke screaming with fright

and crying out that he was going to be killed. When the people in the house could get him quieted sufficiently he told them that a man had come and stood beside him while he slept. 'I am the Lord Jesus whom your aunt worships,' He said. 'You must never beat her again and you must restore her property. If you will do this at once, go to a foreign woman named Han Ku Niang (Miss Louisa Vaughan) at Da Shin Tan, and she will make it right for you and you will suffer no harm. But if you delay I shall slay you with this sword in my hand.'"

The household was alarmed and when the other nephew told them of exactly the same experience their alarm turned to terror. Before morning four peace-makers sat at a feast and received explanation and instruction as to what must be done and at the suggestion of the peace-makers the letter was written which announced the settlement of affairs early Monday morning. The rest of the story you know.

Many good Christians believe that they must help the Lord,—that their talents are to be used in His service in just that way. My own experience in this case and in many others is contrary to this view, and in accordance with the Lord's teaching in John 6: 28-29—"Then said they unto Him, 'What shall we do that we might work the works of God?' Jesus answered and said unto them, 'This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent!'"

My experience in my life of faith has been a verification of Ephesians 1:18-20. "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to-us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places."



CHAPTER XI

Circumstantial Evidence

During the years of my service for Christ in Shantung Province, I was brought into frequent contact with Pastor Chao, a dear old saint of God. It was my privilege to be closely associated with him during the weeks of stress and strain which followed the persecution of the church of Kwoa Kia Tai Tsz.

The Chinese heart, regenerated by Christ, is merciful and tender; but in none of the three great religions of China are there found the principles expressed in such passages as, "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you," and "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." The unconverted Chinese never forget wrongs, are bitterly unforgiving, and miss no opportunity for revenge.

The official who conducts a Chinese law-suit seldom makes a pretense of doing so on a basis of justice, in fact he is very likely to decide the case in favor of the party who offers the largest gift. Yet in spite of such conditions law-suits abound in China. A family or community, entirely free from legal controversy, is rarely found.

It had occurred, however, that an unconverted Chinese judge had rendered a decision against an idol-worshiper and in favor of a Christian, an elder in Pastor Chao's church at Kwoa Kai Tai Tsz. The persecution referred to above was the result of the resentment in the heart of the elder's opponent.

Some time after the law-suit certain citizens invited their Christian neighbors to confer with them in regard to a site for a new temple to their earth-god. To this little god, whose temple is seldom more than twenty feet square, all deaths are reported. A spot directly in front of the church seemed to be the choice for a site, and

of course the Christians objected.

But before any location could be decided upon a relative of those in charge of building the temple, died and the temple was erected for the important ceremony of reporting a death, with no more discussion.

A little later some Christian children discovered the little idol in its little temple almost in the church door. They had been taught to hate idols and moreover, they were deeply offended to find an idol in such a place, so they carried it off and threw it into the river.

At that the storm broke. On Sunday morning while the Christians were at worship, sixty men burst in upon them smashing windows, doors and furniture. Those Christians who were unable to escape were beaten and two of them lay in a very serious condition for more than five weeks. Next they raided the houses of church members in the vicinity destroying furniture, food and fuel. The elder and a good deacon were bound and carried off to

the nearest magistrate. To him one rioter displayed a wound in his arm and handing over a gun belonging to the elder, swore that he had been shot while he and his friends had been peaceably remonstrating over the case of the earth-god.

The two Christians protested that these things were not true; but they were not believed and were cast into prison to await trial.

Meanwhile the members of Pastor Chao's three churches, stirred deeply by the whole outrageous affair, demanded justice as subjects of the empire.

Mr. —, the missionary in charge of all our work, was besieged by church officers, who with Pastor Chao urged him to intercede in behalf of the men in prison, of the Christians who had been beaten, and for the restoration of church and personal property that had been destroyed.

Mr. D— refused to grant their request for, as he said, he was not sure where the original fault was. The

Christians were irritated and in the mean time two men were in prison and two others were desperately ill.

However, Mr. D—— did call for intercessory prayer and claiming the promise in John 14:13-14 we took all the difficulties to the Lord. We asked that God would forgive the Christians if they were at fault and that He would protect them if they were innocent. Day after day we prayed, for forty-two days, and day after day things looked darker for the Christians and brighter for the idol-worshippers.

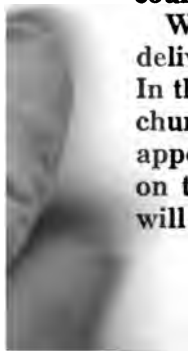
The strongest evidence against the prisoners was the gun. The deacon swore that it belonged to the elder and the elder frankly admitted it. His denial would have meant nothing for the gun bore his name in full. The prisoners told exactly the same story, namely that a rioter entering the church had shot at the elder who dodged under a table and that the rioter who accused the elder had caught the bullet in his arm as he raised his hand to strike a Christian

woman on the head. No one believed the story.

But we had asked the Lord to bring the truth to light and He had not forgotten our prayer. On the afternoon before the sentence was to be pronounced, the official was moved by a strange impulse to take to pieces the elder's gun. Strange, I say, because a Chinese gentleman never does anything himself which can be delegated to a servant. The gun was thoroughly clogged with dust and dirt! It could not possibly have been fired in years.

The official immediately sent for the elder and the deacon, showed them the gun and gave them their freedom. He would see to it that they won their case, he said, if they would bring a counter-suit against their accusers.

When the two men reported their deliverance there was great rejoicing. In the midst of a praise meeting in the church, the leaders of the persecution appeared and prostrating themselves on the floor, begged for mercy. "We will restore your property," they prom-



ised, "and pay any sum of money you suggest if only you will not bring suit against us before that official."

To the honor of God, these church members freely forgave them and asked only that the lost property be restored and that the expense incurred for treatment for the sick be defrayed.

And thus the whole community, Christian and unconverted, was brought to the knowledge that our Heavenly Father is a God of power, and One that hears and answers prayer.



CHAPTER XII

The Graves of the Gods

In the spring of 1911 a little group of Chinese Christians dwelling in Lao Shan Wei, stirred by the reports of revivals in various churches in Chimo county, began to intercede with God for their community. They asked Him for a conference in their midst, to which He would send leaders who had been the means of blessing in these other places. They prayed for a whole year, all the while waiting patiently and expectantly for the answer.

At the end of this time they saw that God was working, for the speakers they had chosen had all consented to come, (I was one of them) and their non-Christian neighbors had begun to manifest most remarkable interest in the proposed meetings.

But a great difficulty still remained in the way. The hall owned by the Christians of the town was the only one in which the gospel had been preached, and this was far too small

to accommodate the unconverted friends who had already expressed a desire to attend the services.

Those who understand conditions in China, and have some conception of the bitter prejudice of the unconverted against Christians, know that it was only by the direct power of God that an audience room could possibly be secured.

The Christians made their need of a hall a special subject of prayer and asked God to give them one large enough to hold the people He was going to send.

In due time my six Bible-women and I found ourselves on the way to meet our engagement at Lao Shan Wei. We could travel only twenty miles of the distance by rail. The remaining forty had to be covered in wheel barrows.

A Chinese wheel barrow is one large wheel with boards for seats on each side. There are handles at the back which the coolie holds, and a rope drawn across his shoulders and fas-

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tened to the handles helps him to balance his load. A coolie gives his services and the use of the barrow and donkey for about two dollars a day. Out of this sum he provides food for himself and his donkey.

In all my fifteen years in China I never became expert or even fairly graceful in mounting and leaving wheel barrows. I either arose too quickly and precipitated my companion in the dust, or else I was too slow and was tumbled to the ground myself, in a most undignified manner.

For two days we jolted along in our barrows and reached Lao Shan Wei at about dusk. We were tired and travel-stained, and we little dreamed that for six hours bright eyes had strained for a glimpse of our quaint little caravan. But that was just the case, for a crowd of boys from the Christian school of the place had been sitting on the wall since noon waiting to welcome us. As we drew near the city they rushed out the South gate to meet us. They were most delighted to see me for I was the

first white woman they had ever laid eyes upon. When I had alighted from my barrow they clutched my hands and skirts and pulled me under the archway of the gate.

"Come along fast!" they urged. "Do come along fast and see where the gods are buried!" In the court yard of a temple they threw their caps into the air and danced over some newly turned clay.

What was it all about! I called a man standing near by and asked him if he could explain what the children meant. He was a Christian and was only too glad to tell me the story:—

"A month ago while we were still praying for a hall for our Conference, I happened to meet the chief official of our city on the street. I told him of the Christian meetings we were to hold and timidly asked if it would be possible for us to use one of the government buildings for just a few days. He led me to this temple and asked me if it would do. He told me to look it over and tell him what I thought.

"‘Your Excellency,’ I answered, ‘the temple is ample in size for our purpose, but it is already occupied.’

"‘Occupied,’ said the official, ‘what do you mean?’

"‘Why just this,’ I answered. ‘Such a large part of the temple is filled with idols that the part which remains would accommodate no more people than our own little hall.’

"‘Oh, is that all?’ he replied. What he said next set me trembling from head to foot. ‘Just go down and throw those idols out, they are of no use.’

"‘Oh, your Excellency,’ I gasped. ‘The people!—why they would tear us to pieces instead of coming to our meetings!’

"‘I don’t believe they would,’ he said. ‘A few years ago we knew no better than to worship them, but now we know they are useless. I’ll assume the responsibility at any rate, so you just do as I say, and I’ll see that no one molests you.’”

"Wondering at God’s mighty power,

I wrote a joyful letter to some Christians living seven miles from here and asked them if they would come over and help us destroy the idols. Ten men responded, and in two days the temple was forever rid of gods made by hands. The wooden ones we split and burned, and the clay ones we beat into dust. There's the garden we made from that dust right over there; we've planted onions and garlic in it. And do you know, Miss Vaughan, the most wonderful thing of all is that crowds of heathen people watched us, and they were not angry at all. They even laughed when we split the old wooden idols limb from limb!"

That night my Bible-woman and I slept in that old heathen temple, peaceful in our Savior's care. I slept on my army cot which I usually carried with me and the others stretched out on boards laid across the benches. They actually preferred hard beds because they were used to them. A brick kang covered with a piece of straw matting is the regulation bed.

Before six in the morning, there was a loud knocking at the door. "Who's there?" I called.

"Han Ku Niang," a woman replied, "will you please let us in? We have come to hear you preach the gospel."

"But what brought you so early?" I asked. "We are not up yet."

"Oh, please open the door," came the answer. "There are six of us and we've been up all night grinding grain and making bread for the day, so our mothers-in-law would let us come. Oh, won't you let us in and tell us about Jesus?"

In this way our preaching began at daylight. Ever larger groups of women joined us, until by nine o'clock, the appointed time for our opening service, there was scarcely breathing room in the temple, much less seating capacity.

Throughout the four days of the Conference, from early morning until ten o'clock at night the six Bible-women and I spoke without intermission, to the women packed inside the

temple. The pastor and four evangelists were preaching to the men outside, where the audience was so great that the "graves of the gods" had to be used for standing room. Out in the streets crowds of both men and women listened eagerly to whatever the Christian laity could give to them.

We took our meals, for the most part just bread and tea, between sentences while we taught. Only at supper time did the crowds thin sufficiently to let us eat in comparative comfort.

The official who had been so kind to our people attended one service with his secretaries. He sent his wives to our women's meeting in company with their slaves and children.

To say that there were many additions to the church in those meetings, is to give only a poor, inadequate idea of the blessing poured out in those four days.

And some time, I hope, the Lord will permit me to complete the work on the foundation laid at that wonderful Conference. FINIS.

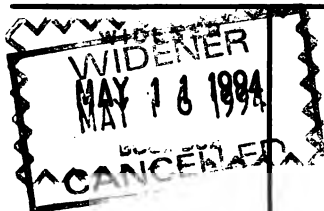




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